

Passionate Prayer

Selected Scriptures

Prayer is, perhaps, our most powerful spiritual tool. Tragically, however, it is also one of the most neglected. E. M. Bounds famously commented, "The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer." Through Jesus Christ, we have been given the amazing privilege of direct access to the omnipotent Ruler of heaven and earth. We are allowed and even commanded to bring our needs and concerns before God in raw, unfiltered conversation. To disregard that opportunity of prayer is near lunacy. Yet, many of us are guilty of being inattentive to the discipline of prayer, reserving it only for times of crisis or uncertainty.

Prayer is not formulaic or ritualistic. It is simply the opening of our hearts to God. Prayer is an intimate act. The more we pray, the greater our sense of nearness to God. We draw close to God when we communicate with Him. God longs for that closeness and so should we. Fulfillment, joy, peace, and contentment are all found in God. When we lack these things, it is because we are not pressing toward God as the only Source of what our souls truly desire. The world promises only false and fleeting satisfaction. Prayer reminds us that only God can fill the hole in our hearts. When we mature as believers, we will not simply pray to get things from God, we will pray to get more of God.

This study will give us some fundamental considerations to inform and encourage a consistent, passionate life of prayer. We should pray alone and with one another, on a schedule and with spontaneity, with a set agenda and with no agenda at all, and to speak and to hear from God. We should pray standing, sitting, kneeling, on our backs, and on our faces. Paul's exhortation in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 is true, we should, "pray without ceasing."

I. _____ for Passionate Prayer.

- a. _____ - Acknowledge God's _____.
- b. _____ - Acknowledge God's _____.
- c. _____ - Acknowledge God's _____.
- d. _____ - Acknowledge God's _____.
 - i. _____.
 - ii. _____.

II. _____ for Passionate Prayer.

- a. _____.
- b. _____.
- c. _____.
- d. _____.
- e. _____.
- f. _____.
- g. _____.

III. _____ to Passionate Prayer.

- a. _____.
- b. _____.
- c. _____.
- d. _____.

IV. Practical Considerations.

- a. Develop a _____.
- b. Find a _____.

c. _____ Your Prayers _____.

d. _____.